

STUDIES IN THE MILITARY APPLICATION OF HYPNOTISM: I. The Hypnotic Messenger

Introduction

Hypnotism is now a recognized branch of the science of psychology operating under known laws producing known phenomena. The proposals we are about to make can be verified by means of the scientific method.

In deep hypnotism or somnambulism, the subject has complete amnesia; he remembers nothing of what has happened. One out of every five persons can reach this depth in the hypnotic trance. With this subject, we can remove from him all knowledge of ever having been hypnotized and make it impossible for anyone else to hypnotise him except a person who has been designated by the hypnotist.

It is our contention that a long and involved message given to a subject could be recovered from the unconscious mind only by one specific operator, who alone would be able to hypnotize the subject and recover the "secret" message. In the waking state, the subject would have no knowledge of this message. He would deny his ever having been hypnotized, and the second hypnotist would be the only person able to re-hypnotize him. He would go to this second operator as a result of the post-hypnotic suggestion of an ordinary military transfer. He would not "talk" because he has nothing to talk about. Furthermore, it is our contention that alcohol, drugs, and/or physical duress would not be successful in recovering this message.

METHODOLOGY

Subjects:

Twenty somnambulists who might be obtained in a military establishment will be used. College students cannot be used in this experiment for quite obvious reasons. The criteria for somnambulism are definitive and clear-cut. The so-called disguised technique will be used so that the personnel will be in ignorance of the reason for being contacted.

Equipment:

We will need facilities for doing hypnotic work under conditions which give maximal security.

The actual apparatus involved will be: (1) dictaphone, (2) an apparatus to test hypnotic anesthesia by means of the application of a graduated electric current, or the use of an electroencephalograph.

Procedure:

The twenty subjects selected for their ability to enter the somnambulist state will be carefully trained for the specific task in mind. As mentioned previously, we will remove from each subject all knowledge of ever having been hypnotized and make it impossible for anyone except the person designated by the hypnotist to re-hypnotize him. He would then be instructed as to the nature of his assignment, namely, that he would be given material which is "secret" and which could not be divulged to anyone, either in the waking state or any type of unconscious state. The exception to this would be a second hypnotist (specifically named) who would be able to re-hypnotize him and recover the "secret" information.

The "secret" material would then be presented to the subject. This would be given by tape recording for the sake of controlling human voice variables and would be repeated five times in five separate hypnotic sessions.

the subject out of the trance and send him to his destination (in this case, the address of the second hypnotist) by means of a post-hypnotic suggestion. In the waking state, knowledge of the second hypnotist. At this point, over a which under normal circumstances would give him ample time part of the world, we would apply different methods to elicit nation, by use of his wife, girl friend, alcohol, amytal or ven physical duress.

the principal investigator at \$50 a day.
days a month for three months.

\$ 3,000.

associate at \$40 per day

\$ 2,400.

expenses for these two men \$12 per day

\$ 1,400.

expenses indeterminate

part-time secretary.

\$ 500.

psychiatrist should also be available. This man could be establishment.

project, approximately \$10,000.

that a thorough investigation of this proposal would require during the summer when the principal investigator and his associate on academic duties.

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